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THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

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MAR 6 - 1992

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Honorable Alan K. Simpson
United States Senate
261 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-5002

Dear Senator Simpson:

Thank you for your letter regarding S. 1372, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1991.

Let me assure you that the Commission shares your belief that the amateur service is important to the community at large, based upon its long history of dedicated public service. It has a proven record of providing assistance in all types of emergencies, including national and international disasters. We also recognize that the amateur service provides a corps of persons knowledgeable in the radio art who have made a number of contributions to the advancement of radio science. It is for these reasons that we are committed to ensuring that the amateur service is provided with adequate spectrum to meet its requirements.

We are concerned, however, that S. 1372, if enacted, will restrict the Commission's ability to respond to changing spectrum requirements. The effectiveness of the Commission's spectrum management policy depends upon its ability to amend the table of frequency allocations when public interest and the nation's telecommunications needs require revisions of spectrum use. Further, the Commission needs flexibility to respond in the best interest of the United States in international spectrum allocation matters to meet future requirements. Finally, we are concerned that enactment of this legislation would encourage other interests with requirements just as legitimate as those of the amateur service (e.g., the broadcast community, the public safety community, the cellular radio community, satellite interests, and land mobile interests) to insist that Congress provide similar "favorite-son" legislation.

With regard to current allocation proceedings, at the request of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the Commission is considering additional frequencies for the amateur service in the 216-220 MHz portion of the spectrum in RM-7747. There are no pending proceedings that propose reallocating any present amateur spectrum to other services. We believe that the amateur service provides many benefits to the public, and will continue to ensure that amateurs have access to spectrum adequate for their needs.

Sincerely,

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Chairman

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 9, 1992

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Alfred Sikes, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Alfred:

I have received several letters from my constituents expressing their support for S. 1372, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1991. This bill would serve to protect the remaining portions of the radio spectrum available to amateur operators.

In the State of Wyoming, there are a great many amateur radio operators -- more than one thousand I am told. I know you are aware of the productive role that these operators play in times of emergency and of their valued assistance in testing new technologies. It is certainly my belief that we need to protect these radio operators from a reduction in the radio spectrum that is available to them.

Please know that whether S. 1372 becomes law or this matter

remains subject to FCC discretion I do want to "unish in" on